

Welcome

to the Parishes of St. John XXIII and St. Richard

Reverend Robert T. Finlan, Pastor

Deacon Edward J. Girard

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent



Church of St. John XXIII

307 Pine Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252

Phone: 570-225-7410 ~ **Fax:** 570-668-4406

Email: secretary@sj23tamaqua.org

Website: www.sj23tamaqua.org

Facebook: Parish of St John XXIII Tamaqua

YouTube: St John XXIII Catholic Church Tamaqua

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday ~ 9:00AM-3:00PM

Parish Staff

Dale Bonenberger, Director of Music

Louise Howells, Cemetery Administrator

Lisa Frederick, Office Administrator

Patricia Radocha, Business Manager

Melissa Grimminger, Director of Religious Education



Church of St. Richard

799 Barnesville Drive, Barnesville, PA 18214

Phone: 570-467-2315 ~ **Fax:** 570-467-2462

Email: strichardadmin@ptd.net

Website: www.strichard.org

Facebook: Church of St Richard

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
9:00AM-2:00PM

Parish Staff

Deacon John A. Setlock, (Retired)

Teri Howerter, Office Administrator

Mary Soberick, Business Manager

Krissy Wonsock, Director of Religious Education

Catholic Schools

St. Jerome Regional School ~ 50 Meadow Avenue, Tamaqua PA ~ 570-668-2757 ~ Grades PreK-8

Marian Catholic High School ~ 166 Marian Avenue, Tamaqua PA ~ 570-467-3335 ~ Grades 9-12

St. Joseph's Center for Special Learning ~ 302 Randel Street, Schuylkill Haven PA ~ 570-622-4638 ~ Children & Adults

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are usually celebrated on a Sunday afternoon. Parents need to be registered parishioners and attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. At least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic and obtain a Certificate of Eligibility from their parish.

Sponsor Eligibility

Certificates of Eligibility for Baptism and Confirmation require the sponsor to be a registered and active member of the parish, and if married, in a valid marriage recognized by the Catholic Church. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements should be made at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date to begin pre-nuptial instructions before making any arrangements. Please call the parish office for more information and to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

Parish Prayer List

To be placed on the Parish Prayer List or to be removed when appropriate, please call either Parish Office and someone will be happy to assist you. Names placed on the Prayer List are automatically removed after three months.

Diocesan Secretary for Office of Safe Environment

Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS ~ P.O. Box F Allentown, PA 18105
610-871-5200 ext. 2204 ~ prusso@allentowndiocese.org

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak ~ 800-791-9209
victimsassistance@allentowndiocese.org

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.

Saturday, December 6 2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ 3:30PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR 5:30PM Mass: SR	Vigil to the Second Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Michael Derr Mass Intention: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sniscak
Sunday, December 7 8:30AM Mass: SJ 10:30AM Mass: SR	Second Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Stan Karnish Mass Intention: Betty Kerestus
Monday, December 8 7:00AM Mass: <i>(held at St. Richard Church)</i> 7:00PM Mass: <i>(held at St. John XXIII Church)</i>	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation) Mass Intention: Paul Gerard Yacabowsky Mass Intention: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. John XXIII and St. Richard Parishes
Tuesday, December 9 7:00AM Mass: SJ <i>(held at St. Richard Church)</i> 8:30AM Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction: SJ	Advent Weekday Mass Intention: Philip Bonenberger
Wednesday, December 10 7:00AM Mass: SR <i>(No Eucharistic Adoration or Confession)</i>	Eternal Remembrance Society Mass Intention: Michael J. Badamo
Thursday, December 11 7:00AM Mass: SR	Advent Weekday Mass Intention: Mary Helen Rehatchek
Friday, December 12 <i>No Daily Mass at either church</i>	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Saturday, December 13 2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ 3:30PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR 5:30PM Mass: SR	Vigil to the Third Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Dr. George and Patricia Holter Mass Intention: Leo Drosdak
Sunday, December 14 8:30AM Mass: SJ 10:30AM Mass: SR	Third Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Bernie Heller Mass Intention: Edward Bleyzgis

TODAY'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: In the first reading, we hear that a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from this line a Savior will bring peace and salvation. In the Letter to the Romans, Paul writes that we are called to harmony with one another and says that this salvation is open to the Gentiles. In the Gospel, John the Baptist calls people to repent and tells of one who is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Through Jesus, God fulfilled the promise he made to his people to bring them salvation. Christ's death and resurrection opened the way for eternal life for all who believe, including the Gentiles. Let us prepare the way of the Lord by asking for God's healing, listening for God's voice, and raising our hearts to him.

TODAY'S RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DEC 14: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

St. John XXIII The Order of Mass can be found starting on page 140 in the Journeysongs Hymnal. The Latin Chant Mass can be found on the following pages: Kyrie – 168 / Sanctus – 170 / Memorial Acclamation – 171 / Amen – 172 / Agnus Dei – 174 The prelude is Be Comforted My People by Lani Smith (1934-2015) The postlude is Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland (Now Come Savior of the Gentiles) by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
--

PRAYER LIST FOR BOTH PARISHES

Please remember in your prayers...

Alonzo Borja, Marlene Fatula, Roy Paisley, Marie Kalpinsky, Ellie Setlock, Chase Schaller, Kathy Sanchez, Quinn Derlunas, Sue Mannello, Dr. Walter Setlock, Christine Lawrence, Sean McGeehan, / Magnolia Pavlovich, Regina Zoba, Jeff Zoba, Joan Manos, Kiersten Guers, Craig Goida, Fred Holman, Jane Grier, Ron Kelly, Eileen Wolfinger, Romaine Karnish / David Rickert, Andrew Eremus, George Koval, Marci Bonner

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them...

Walter Perla

DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

St. John XXIII Sanctuary Lamp In Memory of Stan Karnish Crucifix Candle In Memory of Dr. George and Patricia Holter	St. Richard Blessed Virgin Mary Special Intention St. Joseph Special Intention
--	---

YOUTH FORMATION

Children's bulletins are available in Narthex/Vestibule

St. John XXIII RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2025-2026 <i>All students will meet in the upstairs classrooms after the 8:30AM Mass until 11:00AM</i> Sunday, December 7 – Kids Small Groups Grades 3-6 Family Mass Monday, December 8 – 6:00PM Pageant Rehearsal Sunday, December 14 – Sacramental Prep Grades 2, 7 & 8 Monday, December 15 – 6:00PM Pageant Rehearsal Sunday, November 21 – 5:00PM Children's Christmas Nativity Pageant in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall <i>We will be participating again with the Tamaqua Giving Tree at Depot Square by making bags of hygiene products for families in need. We will be collecting unused hygiene products until December 14 in the basket in the Narthex.</i>	St. Richard RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2025-2026 CCD/PREP CLASSES: Grades 1-4; Sunday, December 14th at 9:30AM Grades 5-8; Sunday, December 21st at 9:00AM Grades 1-8; No Classes – Christmas Break *All classes are held in the Parish Hall <u>unless</u> noted. Friday, December 5th – 6:30PM Annual Children's Christmas Party in the Parish Hall Sunday, December 6th – 9:00AM – 11:00AM AYCE Breakfast in the Parish Hall (sponsored by our Confirmation class) Any questions, please contact Krissy Wonsock at 732-687-0433 SCOUT MEETINGS / EVENTS Cub Scouts Meetings held every Sunday from 4:00PM until 6:00PM in the St. Richard Parish Hall
---	--

ADULT FORMATION

Bible Study: Wednesday evenings from 4:00PM – 6:00PM in the St. Richard Cry Room. This is an open invitation to all from both St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parishes.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults), formerly called "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)," is the process through which one becomes a full member of the Roman Catholic Church. Full membership in the Catholic Church involves a whole formation process, which includes the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Most Holy Eucharist. For those who are already baptized and want to be received into the Catholic Church, please contact either Parish Office.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today's second collection is for the Parish Facility Fund.

Upcoming collections are...

12/8 ~ Immaculate Conception

12/14 ~ Retired Religious

12/21 ~ Parish Utilities

ST. JOHN XXIII AND ST. RICHARD NEWS AND UPDATES

This Week

Monday	Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation – Masses: 7:00AM at St. Richard & 7:00PM at St. John XXIII
Wednesday	10:00AM – the 2026 Mass Intention Book officially opens at both parishes 7:00PM-7:30PM Advent Confessions at St. Richard
Thursday	6:00PM Holy Name Meeting in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall 6:00PM St. John XXIII Parish Choir Rehearsal – new members are always welcome

Upcoming Events

December 14	6:00PM-8:00PM Advent Adoration and Confession followed by Benediction at St. John XXIII
December 17	Catholic Charities Community Café Food Truck – noon until 1:30PM in the St. John XXIII parking lot
December 20	9:00AM Church Christmas decorating at St. Richard
December 21	5:00PM Children's Christmas Nativity Pageant – St. John XXIII Parish Hall – everyone is invited to this event

2026 MASS INTENTION BOOK AT ST. JOHN XXIII

Opens this Wednesday, December 10th at 10:00AM. The dates/times to book Masses and candles are as follows:

- *Wednesday, December 10th – 10:00AM–12noon and 1:00PM- 3:00PM in Parish Office
- *Thursday, December 11th – 10:00AM-12noon and 1:00PM-3:00PM in Parish Office
- *Sunday, December 14th – 9:30AM-11:00AM following Mass in Parish Hall

There is a **limit of two Masses (one weekday, one weekend), one Sanctuary Lamp, and one Crucifix Candle**. All requests must include the 2026 updated form along with a \$10 stipend per request. Forms are in the Parish Office and the Parish Hall. We will not take request forms in the offering baskets nor online nor via mail. Requests must be made in person. Questions directed to Lisa in the Parish Office.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 14th

If you would like your Baby Jesus from your home Nativity scene blessed, please bring it to Mass next weekend.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS VISITS

All homebound parishioners, including those who are not on the Communion call list, are eligible to receive a home visit on December 10th and receive a Christmas poinsettia, cookies, calendar, and a prayer bouquet. To add someone to the list please email tamaquaSVDP@outlook.com or call 570-225-8620

HYGIENE DRIVE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

We will be collecting new (unused) hygiene products. The donation basket is in the Narthex and collections end next Sunday, December 14th.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HOAGIE FUNDRAISER

The St. John XXIII Knights of Columbus Council 2711 is having a fundraiser. \$10 Pieracini hoagie tickets are on sale before and after weekend Masses until December 22nd in the Family Room.

GIVING TREES AT BOTH PARISHES

Starting today, there is a Giving Tree for both Birthright and Catholic Charities in the St. Richard Vestibule and in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall. Birthright only accepts monetary donations or gift cards however; Catholic Charities also accepts certain items. The suggested items are printed on the ornaments on the two trees. Birthright donations can be placed in the collection basket or in the secure box on the St. Richard Rectory porch or brought into the St. John XXIII Parish Office. Catholic Charities donations (please do not wrap) may be placed under the tree.

ST. JOHN XXIII CAFÉ IN THE PARISH HALL

Please join us in the Parish Hall immediately after Mass for coffee and fellowship.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

It seems like the winter season is here. In case of snow or ice, **both** St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parishes **will follow** Mahanoy Area School District. If the district has a cancellation or delay because of weather, there will be NO weekday Mass.

THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS

All the children who left a shoe in the St. Richard Vestibule for St. Nicholas, please pick up your shoe this weekend December 6th or December 7th after Mass, and maybe if you are lucky, St. Nicholas will have left you a treat!

ADVENT IS HERE

The Christmas Wafers (\$4 per packet) and the 2026 Liturgical Calendars (free) are located in the St. Richard Vestibule and in the Family Room at St. John XXIII. Please use the appropriate envelope provided.

REMINDER

Bulletin announcements including flyers must be emailed or called in **no later than** Tuesday at noon to the respective Parish Office.

2026 MASS INTENTION BOOK AT ST. RICHARD

OFFICIALLY OPENS Wednesday, December 10th at 10:00AM. **No requests** will be accepted prior to the above date. Requests will be accepted through the Revised Mass Intention Form (found in church or online) and may be mailed, placed in the collection, or dropped at the office. The forms must be fully completed with the enclosed \$10 per Mass stipend/Candle fee. As there is an overflow of Masses and Mass times are limited; we cannot guarantee a specific date and time for Mass intentions. To try and accommodate the intentions (*which also includes reserved dates*), there is a limit of three Masses. Please also consider having a weekday Mass, remembering your loved one through the Eternal Remembrance Society (contact the Parish Office), the Sanctuary Lamp or one of the Devotional Candles.

PIEROGIES FOR SALE AT ST. RICHARD

Homemade potato and cheese pierogies will be sold for \$15.00 per dozen just in time for Christmas! A sign-up sheet is in the vestibule. The order deadline is December 15th, and pickup is the weekend of December 20th/21st.

WINTER LOTTERY CALENDARS AT ST. RICHARD

The lottery calendar for only January 2026 is \$5.00. Please return your ticket either in the collection or the "Fundraising" box on the rectory porch. **January tickets must be returned by December 31st.**

JANUARY LOTTERY CALENDARS FOR SALE NOW

They are only \$5 each and make great stocking stuffers. They are available in the St. John XXIII Family room before and after weekend Masses.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

We need three people to present the offertory gifts at each weekend Mass; children are welcome to participate. The individual or family (the Mass donor) who requested the Mass intention obviously takes precedence, but often they are not available for the offertory procession. This is when we offer the honor of taking up the gifts to any parishioner present at Mass. If there is a date that you know you want to take up the gifts during the offertory procession, please call Joan Marie Roth at 570-599-9809 and leave your name, phone number, and the date of the Mass you request.

75TH ANNIVERSARY ORNAMENTS

St. Richard Parish is offering a 75th Anniversary Keepsake ornament for \$10 each. They will be available before/after all weekend Masses or stop by the Parish Office during business hours. They make great gifts, too!

COMMUNION

Communion will be brought to all those seated in the front pews of St. Richard Church as well as the handicap pews in the back of St. John XXIII Church and the balcony.

MORE ATTEMPTS AT FRAUD

Over the past few weeks, someone has been impersonating Fr. Finlan and sending text messages and emails to parishioners from fake accounts pretending to be Fr. Finlan. None of these messages are legitimate. Fr. Finlan will never text or email requests for help or money or gift cards. If you do receive one of these fraudulent messages, just delete it and do not reply, but please let your respective Parish Office know.

BOYER'S KEY TAG PROGRAM REMINDER

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to participate in this ongoing fundraiser. Just have the cashier scan the key tag at checkout. Key fobs are located at both entrances.

FROM THE DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN

Many thanks to those who have already made a commitment to the *Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal*. The participation of all our parish families makes it possible to serve those in need. Remember that every gift counts. Please make your gift today at www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org.

--	--